(d) to (e) Medical Grants Commission has been conceived as a funding agency for providing financial assistance for upgrading the facilities in various Government Medical Colleges Hospitals which are otherwise starved for resources.

Under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), the role of Government Medical College is envisaged for providing comprehensive tertiary care medical services. Funds under the National Rural Health Mission are proposed to be channelised through the Medical Grants Commission for providing necessary financial assistance for upgrading the facilities in the Government Medical College Hospitals.

Sanjeevani

†4726. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that previous Government had taken a decision to establish a mobile hosptial named "Sanjeevani" with most modern equipments; and

(b) if so, the progress made is this regard alongwith full details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare decided to procure a pre-fabricated, self contained, container based mobile hospital in 2001. This project is first of its kind in the country. Major disasters such as the severe earthquake in Gujarat and super cyclone in Orissa as also management of the disasters on a global context has established that container based mobile hospital if moved to the disaster site at short notice would augment the quick response mechanism and save many preventable deaths. The Standing Finance Committee (SFC) approved the project on 10th April, 2003 at an estimated cost of Rs. 12.25 crores. Fresh international competitive bids were invited in November, 2004 and are being evaluated. The Mobile Hospital is likley to be commissioned by the end of 2005.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.